


Mr. Vincent Bugliosi
1926 W. Mountain St.,
Glendale, CA 91201

2/24/99

Dear Mr. Bugliosi,

Thanks for your kind comments and apologies for my typing, which can't be any better. And an explanation.

I did show and offer Newman a copy of that file, which I'll describe. He saw the part that establishes that Oswald had and had to have a Crypto clearance, for which at least then Top Secret was a prerequisite. But there is no record that I know of which says that Oswald had a Crypto clearance. The proof is in the court martial inquest into the suicide of PFC Martin Schrand. If you want it, when I can get someone who is here to make the copies, I'll xerox that Schrand inquest. He killed himself outside the Crypto van when he was on guard duty guarding it. Oswald worked there and had to have had a Crypto clearance just to enter it.

My friend Hal Verb was with me when I first got the lead on that. I remember it clearly. I was in the studio of  Hal Verb
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the then Metromedia radio station on Jack London Square. Hal was with me and in the control room. (Comes back to me that I went into this a little in Oswald in New Orleans.) A man had called in about 15 minutes before that Joe Dolan show signed off. He wanted to talk to me but not on the air. He wanted anonymity and I never made any effort to find out who he was. I gave him my address and asked him, if he changed his mind, to write me. He told me that the Oswald I was talking about from the official evidence was not the Oswald who had been a friend of his in the Marines. I checked what he said out and it all stacked, including that Oswald was a pool shark. Liked classical music and operas, etc. He told me that Oswald was one of six men in their outfit who had Crypto clearances. I'd never heard of that clearance but I learned when I went from SF to LA that it was a real clearance and that it required Top Secret.

Nothing like that was in the ONI file I had or in any Navy file I'd seen so after some time passed I made a FOIA request for the Schrand inquest. He did kill himself and he did it when he was guarding that Crypto van at Cubi Point. He and Oswald were two of the six with that clearance. I also checked the testimony of the fellow Marines the Commission deposed. While none mentioned Top Secret all did testify to those few having a higher clearance. The man in charge of that work, Donovan, testified that it required at least a Secret clearance. Even Thornley testified that after Oswald was off that work and was awaiting his discharge he did work that required a Secret clearance.

I do not know why Newman said he'd prefer to get that record for himself and

then did not. He also refused another Oswald record I showed him, the memo that Rankin wrote on their 1/24/64 testimony from the Texas people on Oswald as an agent, that report. I also spoke to Henry Wade and Dean Storey about that session. They both believed it was being taken down in shorthand but it wasn't. And in the memo that Rankin substituted for the court reporter he said that they had told him the Oswald number was 110669. Newman also did not use that. But he did get the record because when mine was stolen he replaced it with a different copy from a different source but identical.

If I were to guess why he had no interest in the Oswald security clearance I'd say it had to do with Newman's preconception that Castro was behind it. That he did say a couple of times in Oswald and the CIA, the book in which he did not connect Oswald with the CIA in any way.

A further explanation. I'm almost 86 now and about three years ago my doctors gave me up for the third time. I'm feeble, and lucky to be alive and able to do some work. I have found that with our xerox machine the motions I have to go through for more than a couple of pages is a bit much, I think in circulation in my back. That and the fact that my wife can't do it because she is now in a nursing home are why I do not just do it and enclose it.

When that literary whore and con man Posner was here in I think 1992 it was no longer safe for me to use the stairs to the basement and that is the only place I had room for all those records, about a third of a million pages I got from those FOI lawsuits plus maybe a third that much of my own work. After falling on the bottom step twice I just stopped going down there. That meant I had to do different work in which I did not have to draw on those records. I've been writing without hope of publication but as a record for history, commentary on those I regard as the extremists on both sides. Or those whose work includes what to me are extreme views. I am not able to make and send copies around but I do have quite a few out of my possession on all of them, with professional scholars who are friends and some others, including lawyers. So I can't offer you a copy of Tarjedy and Travesty, what I wrote about the Newman book, or the two epilogues. But if you are ever near here and have a little time you will be welcome to read it or parts of it and what may be of more value to you, to use what I call my "subject" file. Until it became impossible for me I was making duplicates of some of the records, mostly FBI, and filing them by name and subject. They do make much accessible ^w that otherwise might not be.

And, of course, as a matter of principle I make all available to those who know will write what I do not agree with. They can also use our copier. Some

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behave badly and steal only copies when they can make copies but there is nothing I can do about that. I believe FOIA is the most American of laws and I believe that my making what I get available to all is consistent with the intent of that law. Or, from what I know of what you have said, that I know you have said what I do not agree with makes no difference. You will be welcome or if you'd like and can do it, you can have someone else search and copy for you.

I've had to give all the copies I had of the books I published to the local Hood College, where all my work and records will be, and in time all these records will be there and accessible there.

With what I understand is your view I do not think you will be wanted^{ING} to ask me anything but if you do, please remember that I retire at what for most people is a very early hour, by 6 p.m. out time, and I'm up and working very early, when people where ^{and here} you are are still asleep. My number is 301/473-3186.

I hope you do not mind my making the suggestion, but I believe that in order to have a valid opinion on the assassination or on the work of the Warren Commission it is necessary to have a good grasp of the official information. Not the official interpretation of it but the information itself. For example, the Commission concluded that Oswald was the lone assassin but the best shots in the country, in tests for the Commission and under vastly improved conditions, could not duplicate the shooting attributed to Oswald.

It may also interest you to know that Senators Russell and Cooper refused absolutely to agree with the so-called single-bullet theory but were conned by McCloy into agreeing with what he described as a compromise and was not that at all. Russell encouraged my work until his dying day. The talking paper he prepared for the 9/18/64 executive session he forced found a memory hole with the Commission, which again did not have the court reporter there, as Russell believed it did. I have that paper, rather a xerox of the carbon copy of it, and Cooper prepared an eloquent oral history in which he was quite specific, neither of them ever agreed to that SBT. From the Russell archive at the Univ. of Georgia at Athens

I'm sorry we do not agree but I'll help you in any way I can.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg
Harold Weisberg